

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64119

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 1848**

The monthly **“Meet Your Councilperson”** event is Monday, November 22, 6 - 7 pm at NNI.

The Leaders meetings for November and December have been cancelled. A refashioned Leaders meeting, to be called “Connections,” will be January 11, 6:30 pm at NNI.

NNI Meetings in November

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Tues., | November 2 | Remember to Vote at your local precinct | 6 am - 7 pm |
| Mon., | November 8 | RecycleFIRST Meeting | 7 pm |
| Wed., | November 10 | NNI Seniors’ Workshop | 9 am |
| Thurs., | November 11 | Greenhaven Neighborhood Association | 6:30 pm |
| Mon., | November 15 | NNI Board Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| Mon., | November 22 | Meet Your Councilperson | 6 pm |
| Tues., | November 23 | Winnwood/Sunnybrook Neighborhood Meeting | 7 pm |
| Thurs., | November 25 | NNI Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday | |
| Fri., | November 26 | NNI Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday | |

New partnership could bring “Wonderful Life” to Northland family

“It's A Wonderful Life” is a nearly obligatory holiday tradition for American families. But one Northland family is taking part in a real-life version of the Frank Capri classic, thanks to an innovative demonstration project created by Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI), Northland Habitat for Humanity, and the Housing and Economic Development Financial Corporation (HEDFC).

The groundbreaking for the new house at 5814 NE 60th Street was October 6. Northland Habitat Executive Director Gary Moore said construction will take about six



(Continued on page 2)

- 3. Leaders meeting, Police on bikes**
- 4. Spotlight on Volunteerism**
- 5. Eastwood School project still alive**
- 6. Golden Oaks playground raising, William Jewell partners with NNI, Member Certificates**
- 7. Meet your neighbor, NNI Seniors, Volunteers needed**
- 4. Calendar**

New partnership begins ***(Continued from page 1)***



Participants in the October 6 groundbreaking (left to right) Jim Rice, NNI; Jim Vaughn, HEDFC; Ken Bacchus, HEDFC; Gary Moore, Northland Habitat; Irene Jacobs, homeowner; Councilwoman Deb Hermann; Mike Lewis, NNI Board President

months. Called C.H.A.P. (Community Housing Advocacy Partnership), the project offers Irene Jacobs and the four children in her care a new affordable house and a fresh start in life. Northland Habitat is constructing the new home, HEDFC is providing financing and technical assistance, and NNI is coordinating the project and providing support services for the family.

The idea for the partnership crystallized after NNI received a request for a home repair grant for the Jacobs family in late 2003. The Jacobs' house on NE 60th Street was not eligible for the grant because it was located outside the grant's target area, but NNI inspected the house to explore other ways to help. The inspection revealed a house in desperate shape, despite Ms. Jacobs' best efforts to provide basic maintenance.

"The estimate for repairs to bring the house to minimum standards of safety and livability far exceeded the value of the house," says NNI Executive

Director Jim Rice. "In any case, Irene had no extra resources to make the necessary repairs. But we just could not turn our backs on this family."

That's when the partnership idea began to jell. NNI already worked with HEDFC to produce new and rehab housing. NNI and Habitat had met to discuss potential partnerships. And Irene Jacobs badly needed a new house.

"Irene not only needs a new house; she deserves a new house," Rice says. "She struggles every day to make ends meet, but her whole life is focused on the children, two of her own and two foster children she rescued from very difficult circumstances. Irene's first priority is getting those children a stable and successful education. That speaks volumes about her character."

When Habitat, HEDFC and NNI met to work out details of the project, they gave it the working title, "It's a Wonderful Life." "The message

of the movie is that each individual life makes a big difference to a lot of people and, when someone is in trouble, the community comes together to help," says Habitat's Gary Moore. "This demonstration project is a complex financial and organizational undertaking, but the fundamental message is that same "It's a Wonderful Life" theme...and it represents the common mission of all three organizations."

Under the demonstration project, Irene's present house will be purchased and razed with funds loaned to NNI by HEDFC, Irene's family will remain in the old house while the new three-bedroom home is constructed by Habitat. That way, the family will avoid temporary relocation and will have the joy of watching their new home built next door. When the new house is completed, the old house will be demolished and the Jacobs family will purchase the new house from Habitat through a Habitat-administered affordable mortgage.

NNI hopes the Northland community will get involved in the project. The North Kansas City School District already has its interior design instructor and a student working with the family on special touches for the house. NNI has set up a special fund to help furnish the new home. Habitat hopes to get some of the building materials donated.

Contributions to the Irene Jacobs Fund are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Northland Neighborhoods, Inc./Jacobs Fund, 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway, KCMO 64119

Meet your neighbor



Jerry & Peggy Dunn Chaumiere Neighborhood

Jerry and Peggy Dunn moved into the Chaumiere neighborhood 32 years ago with their daughters Tonya and Elena. While the children were younger, Peggy served as a Campfire leader for 10 years and also held local and district offices through Campfire Girls. Tonya and Elena both graduated from North Kansas City High School and are nurses living in Liberty and Independence.

Jerry works as a truck driver for Tamm Lumber Co, and enjoys reading and being involved in many organizations. Peggy is a homemaker who enjoys sewing, crafts, reading and does custom dressmaking, silk flowers and alterations.

Both Jerry and Peggy are active members of Grace Baptist Church and serve on various committees. Peggy serves on the Care and Fellowship committee as a care group leader, Missions committee and Nursery chairman. Both Jerry and Peggy have served on the Building committee.

Peggy served on the original committee to research and open Grace Baptist Day Care. She served on the board, taught in the nursery and one-year old room and now volunteers when needed.

Jerry and Peggy have six grandchildren and two great grandchildren and enjoy spending time with them very much. They are both glad that their daughters live so close because they enjoy doing activities together. They are especially thankful on holidays and special days when the families are all together.

Currently Peggy is serving on the Board in the Chaumiere neighborhood and is very involved in issues that affect her neighborhood. Jerry is also involved in the neighborhood by volunteering for clean-ups and other neighborhood functions.

Both Jerry and Peggy try to make a huge difference in the quality of life in the Chaumiere neighborhood, both for themselves and their neighbors.

“Meet Your Neighbor” is a quarterly column that features persons who makes a difference in the life of our neighborhoods.

Jerry and Peggy Dunn moved into the Chaumiere neighborhood 32 years ago with their

NNI seniors: Ready in 3

On November 10 at 9 am “Ready in 3” will address a wide variety of emergency threats and what individuals, families and businesses should know and do if a threat is imminent or present. “Ready in 3” includes three steps: (1) Creating a plan for you, your family, and your business, (2) Preparing a kit for home, car and work and (3) How to stay “in the know” and “know what to do” during an actual emergency.

Emergency may mean tornado, flood, highly infectious diseases, chemical or radiological events. Everyone CAN be “Ready in 3.”

For more information contact Janet at 454-2000

Volunteers needed; NNI can find the right match for your interests and talents

NNI receives requests for help on a daily basis. Many of these requests can only be fulfilled with support and assistance from volunteers. Opportunities range from yard cleanups to youth mentoring. There are volunteer opportunities that require specific skills, special background or experience or, sometimes, just a good heart and a little time. To find out more about NNI's volunteer needs, call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

Join Golden Oaks in long-awaited barn (whoops) playground raising

On Saturday, November 13, Golden Oaks Neighborhood Association will build a new playground in Golden Oaks Park. Volunteers are needed to help install the playground in ONE day. The build will begin at 8 am. Golden Oaks will provide food and beverages for all volunteers.

November 13 will be an exciting time for participants as they watch a playground form before their eyes and from their own hands. If you are available to help, please contact Brenda Ellis at 453-5837 as soon as possible. You must be 18 yrs. old to participate. Golden Oaks Park is located at the corner of NE 46th Street. and Antioch Road. Parking is on NE 47th Street.

The installation will proceed rain or shine. If the weather is *too* bad, the backup date for installation is Saturday, November 20th.

William Jewell partners with NNI to "Serve and Celebrate"

On October 23, 28 William Jewell College students volunteered to paint two houses in the Northland.



Each year, at Homecoming time, students begin the week by joining hands with community partners in Liberty and Kansas City to make a positive impact on the surrounding area. They call this event "Serve and Celebrate" because it celebrates the support received from neighbors. The students feel it is important to make an intentional effort to serve those closest to them.

Each year students graduate and disperse around the globe to careers and further education. They carry with them from Jewell a commitment to their local community and a servant heart. "Serve and Celebrate" connects the enthusiasm and energy of William Jewell students with a variety of needs across the Kansas City area.

Approximately 200 students did projects ranging from home repairs with Northland Neighborhoods to food distribution with Harvesters.

They also worked on campus and at El Centro Community Center, Hillcrest Ministries, and "In as Much" food pantry.

William Jewell's motto is "Deo Ficus Labora," Latin for "Love God, Work." Through "Serve and Celebrate" students put hands and feet to that phrase.

New member certification continues; annual renewals to get underway

Under NNI bylaws, only certified Members may vote at the Annual Meeting. The deadline for neighborhood associations to be certified in time for the 2005 Annual Meeting is May 2005. Members are defined as organized and active neighborhood associations that hold open meetings on a regular

basis, have submitted a written request for membership, and have been admitted for membership by vote of the NNI board. Organizations wishing certification or individuals wanting a Board Member application form should call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

Certifications must be renewed annually. NNI currently lists 64 neighborhood associations as officially certified. These members will be contacted by NNI during the coming weeks and asked to complete a simple renewal form.

Leaders meeting to return in January with a new time, new look, new name

Borrowing from its Neighborhood Solutions Program's four principles (Making Connections, Changing Minds, Thinking Small, Doing Democracy), NNI will roll out a new version of its Leaders meeting on January 11, 2005. The new name for the meeting will be **Connections**.

The Leaders meetings for November and December were cancelled to give neighborhood leaders a break for the holidays and to put some distance between the old and the new formats. The new Leaders Meeting will be called Connections...and it will be all about connections. Connections to resources, information and contacts that will serve neighborhoods better. The meeting will provide opportunities to interact with government officials and social service agencies...and more. The meetings will also include roundtable discussions to help neighborhood leaders make connections among themselves.

The first Connections meeting is January 11, 2005, 6:30 p.m., at NNI. Guest speaker will be Troy Schulte, Director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Future meetings will be held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at NNI.

New police bikes roll into neighborhoods thanks to contributions from grateful community supporters

The North Patrol's bike patrol unit has two new, fully-equipped bikes thanks to the generosity of the Northland community. Contributors were St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Jack Miller of Jack Miller Chrysler-Plymouth, and Holiday Hills resident Park Lightfoot.

Father Jerry Waris, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, was impressed with a recent community policing effort in the nearby Crestview area. "This partnership of police, neighborhood leaders and City Hall resolved some serious disorder in our neighborhood. The new police bikes are a great way for St. Patrick's to sustain this kind of problem solving," Father Waris says.

St. Patrick's contributed one new bike. That inspired Miller and Lightfoot to team up to purchase the second bike. Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI) contributed a new bike rack. The total package amounted to just under \$1,600.

Bike patrols are still relatively new in Kansas City. They first appeared about 10 years ago in the Paseo corridor in the central part of the city. Today, bikes are used by the police in the Center, East and North Patrol Divisions. North Patrol is the first to deploy bike officers into residential neighborhoods on a large scale. The response from neighbors has been enthusiastic. Holiday Hills' Lightfoot says the bikes

bring the officers in touch with residents in an up-close, friendly way. "When a police car rolls through the neighborhood, it's business as usual. But when the bikes roll through, they get noticed."

Officer John Lozano, a veteran bike officer, sees the bikes as a way to meet citizens and solve disorder problems at the same time. "In one neighborhood, we were making the rounds talking with folks doing their yard work or taking their daily walk. Along the way, we documented 6 code violations and checked out several suspicious license plates. It's good public relations, but it's also good policing."

Bikes are not the only alternative vehicles police are using to battle disorder. NNI is assisting the North Patrol Division in its quest to acquire two new All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) for specialized patrolling in the Northland. ATVs are an important tactic for patrolling Northland parks and other remote areas. They can access rugged terrain that other vehicles can't access.

The two ATVs will cost \$6,000 each. With help from corporations, businesses and the general public, the new ATVs will allow North Patrol to continue this innovative and effective way to control disorder in the Northland's many parks and wooded areas. Businesses and individuals interested in making a donation can contact Janet Shaffer at Northland Neighborhoods, 454-2000.

Spotlight on Volunteerism:

America's Third Freedom: Guaranteed Food

***Food, Glorious Food,
Our senses go reeling,
For one moment of knowing
that full-up feeling...
(Kids' lament in the musical
"Oliver")***



by Reta Jo Mitchell

Like those Oliver Twist orphans, during the Great Depression millions of Americans were hungry. WWI veterans, lacking food for their families, marched on Washington. Desperate Midwestern mothers stormed a grocery store.

In 1941, President Roosevelt declared that people everywhere "are entitled to freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from WANT and from fear." Indelibly remembered as the "Four Freedoms," the most revolutionary was the third: the right to have enough to eat.

This had been the reason behind the 1930's free food program that involved government, faith-based and other institutions, and the willing hands of volunteers.

I remember those volunteers delivering surplus commodities to needy families. Such hand-outs put meals on barren tables. Free school lunches meant that wan-faced children got a noontime plate of macaroni and cheese, stewed raisins and a cup of milk. My mother was a volunteer cook in our school lunchroom.

I watched my grandmother

Maggie ladle food onto plates as a Salvation Army Corps soup kitchen volunteer. For over 124 years, our down-and-out have received this nourishment. Today, our Northland Corps maintains a free food pantry.

Over time, food charity included direct feeding and surplus farm products gifts, food stamps and distribution by a web of agencies. And there were glitches. Tons of warehoused cheese, out-of-date and moldy, were once donated to the fish in the Missouri River.

The perfect solution was a national umbrella organization called America's Second Harvest. Greater Kansas City's Harvesters, now 25 years old, is a member. Michelle Pierceall said that our Harvesters serves 550 agencies, 80 in the Northland. Their distribution for this year has been 23 million pounds of food and household products. Over 1,000 volunteers make this possible.

Restaurants now donate their leftovers to soup kitchens without fear of lawsuits thanks to Missouri Congressman Bill Emerson's "Good Samaritan Law." Since 1996, volunteers have delivered this food in special trucks.

The Letter Carriers' annual drive is an incredible source of donations. To date, our mailmen have collected and sorted 650 million pounds of food. (Watch for the kids in "Family Circus" to remind us each spring.)

The nationwide program, Meals-On-Wheels, has served Northlanders for 30 years. About 137 of our elderly and infirm neighbors receive a hot meal five days a week. For a nominal cost, volunteers deliver a complete meal consisting of a meat dish, vegetables, a dessert such as jello and a cookie, and bread and milk.

Meals-On-Wheels Coordinator Ellen Hoyt told me she has never had a "more meaningful job." Scheduler Patty Bahl calls the program a magnet for volunteers. Like Wanda Ebert, whose late husband received the meals and who now delivers her own North Kansas City route.

This non-profit program has many corollary benefits. Those living alone are checked on by their delivery man or woman. And, this service means that the recovery from illness is hastened, or that the nursing

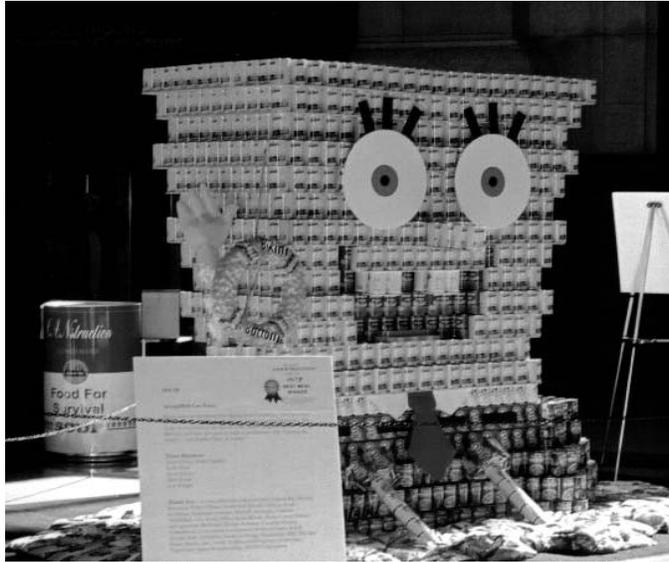
(Continued on page 5)

America's Third Freedom; Guaranteed Food (Continued from page 4)

home is a bit farther up the road.

Of all the volunteer-related food programs, the most unusual is "Canstruction." This involves architectural and construction firms that collect cans and boxes of food to create statues and other structures. Yearly, the yield is over one million food items.

Our local "Canstructors" have built a Leaning Tower of Peas-a, an M&M Giant, a Trashcan Bogeyman, even a football game. This year's creations are on display until November 7 at Union Station. There you will see a huge American flag fashioned from Starkist Tuna, Hunt's Tomato sauce and white cans of Cranberry sauce. Also, the Grand Canyon and the Monster Under the "Canopeas" Bed. Kids rush to gaze up at Sponge Bob who really is pineapple, pork and beans, Pet



**SpongeBob,
"Canstruction"
2004 winner
designed by HNTB**

milk, macaroni, jello and rice. And Harvesters will be the richer by over five tons of food.

To help, Northlanders can volunteer, give a can or give dollars. To learn more, call: Salvation Army, 452-5663; Harvesters, 231-3173; Meals-On-Wheels, 691-5332; Canstruction: 460-2020. Special Holiday Programs:

Liberty Community
Christmas Tree Assistance
Program: 792-1112
Northland Christmas Store:
453-2053 (to volunteer)
Platte County Christmas
Store: 858-5153

Eastwood School project still alive; NNI to push for State tax credits

"Chaumiere Place," a partnership of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI) and Cohen-Esrey Development (CED), calls for redevelopment of the former Eastwood School site at 4140 N. Walrond as 35 units of senior housing, 23 in the existing school building and 12 in new construction on the school's 4-acre site. The complex will also include a large community facility in the former gymnasium that would be used for the benefit of Chaumiere Place ten-

ants and neighborhood residents.

Design of the project has been guided by residents of the Chaumiere neighborhood in several meetings held over the past year. NNI has an option to purchase the school site from the North Kansas City School District when financing has been completed. NNI and Cohen-Esrey submitted an application for 9% tax credits from the Missouri Housing

Development Commission (MHDC) in mid-October. State and local elected officials are very supportive, and Mayor Kay Barnes has placed the project on her priority list for tax credits. A decision from MHDC will come in December.